



WWWC History: Buildings 1963-1972

First We Build Our Buildings and Then They Build Us

Bishop Fred P. Corson

May 27, 1953

Preface

Dreamers and Giants: West Virginia Wesleyan College History, was a course taught from 2016-2020. The major goal of the course was to help students understand the rich history of the college, the place they came to call their Home Among the Hills.

These are slides and class lecture notes from those classes. What you don't see is the lively class discussion, the tours around campus on our Field Trip Friday sessions, and the pride on their faces as the students realized that they were part of something bigger than what they had realized: a school which had been lovingly created by those that we called the Dreamers and Giants of the college.

Paula L. McGrew
March 2023

1963

Benedum Campus
Community Center

This building was funded by the Benedum Foundation, which was started in 1944 by Michael Benedum, a native of Bridgeport, WV, to honor his son, Claude, who died in 1918 at age 20 in World War I.

Included were a post office, bowling alley, pool room, offices including the WWC Radio Station, a bookstore, a swimming pool, a Social Hall, and The Scow, where students gathered to play cards, socialize, eat snacks and listen to the jukebox.



1963

Holloway Hall

This residence hall was named for Bishop Fred Garrigus Holloway who was the first bishop of the West Virginia Annual Conference. He was also a trustee of the college, from 1961-68.



1964

Paul G. Benedum Hall

This residence hall was opened as New Hall and was renamed for Paul G. Benedum, Sr., in 1973. Paul G. Benedum, Sr., was the nephew of Michael Benedum. He served as the President of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation from 1959-77. He also served on the WWC College Board of Trustees from 1951-73, and was awarded an Honorary Degree in 1951. He was a founder of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and was a director and national treasurer of that organization until his death in 1977.

The Nellie Wilson Lounge is located on the first floor.



1967

Wesley Chapel and the
Martin Religious Center

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, and Stanley H. Martin, President of the college from 1957-72 are honored with this building. Wesley's desire for the uniting of knowledge and piety inspired not only the naming of this building, but also served as an important goal for the college community as a whole. Martin, our longest-serving president to date, is largely credited with creating a campus Master Plan (1958), that has guided the development and style of all buildings ever since. An ordained Methodist minister, he taught Religious Education at the School of Theology at Boston University and served as the first Dean of Marsh Chapel at that institution before coming to Wesleyan.



1967

Christopher
Hall of Science

By the 1960s, Haymond Hall of Science facilities had become outdated. After hearing a sermon by President Stanley Martin at Wesley Methodist Church in Morgantown, Mabel Neville Christopher (1918) and her husband, Frank, a mine owner in the Scotts Run area, gave a substantial gift toward a new science building in memory of their son, Ward, who had died in an automobile accident in 1962.

Hyma Auditorium, the Planetarium, and the George Rossbach Herbarium are located in this building.



1972

Middleton Hall

Middleton Hall was built to house the Nursing Department. It was named in memory of Bishop W. Vernon Middleton, who served the Western Pennsylvania Conference from 1960 until his death in 1968. He spoke on our campus many times.



Lots of Building During this Decade!

- 1963 Benedum Campus Community Center
- 1963 Holloway Hall
- 1964 Paul G. Benedum Hall
- 1967 Christopher Hall of Science
- 1967 Wesley Chapel and the Martin Religious Center
- 1972 Middleton Hall

To see the complete Chronology of the Buildings on the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan College look on Internet Archive:

<https://archive.org/details/chronology-wwwc-buildings-1890-2014>

Each Building Has a Story

The original buildings were few. In fact, there was just one in 1890.
President Bennett Hutchinson built a house in 1892 (at his own expense).
Ladies Hall (currently known as Agnes Howard Hall) was built in 1895.

As the college grew, the buildings on campus expanded to fulfill the needs of the day.

For the purpose of this class, I have divided them into sections for study.
As we focus on each of these sections, we will “meet” the some of the people that were involved.
We will see trends about how they were funded.
We will see trends about what was considered, by those making plans, to be a need at various times.

The following slides are meant as a brief introduction.
Each story has much more to it, and the list of suggested readings will help you to discover even more. But, let’s start.

Benedum
Campus
Community
Center
1963



Benedum Campus Community Center

1963

The January 15, 1963 edition of the *Pharos* had a headline on the front page: Campus Center Opens Feb. 2 – Tour, Hop First Day (by Jerry McGrew).....I don't think we are related.....

The article reads:

"Barring unforeseen circumstances", the Benedum Campus Community Center will open on Saturday, Feb. 2, with all of its services available according to James Stansbury, director of the Center. (Yes, he is the son of the legendary Harry Stansbury)

"Guided tours of the Center are planned for that Saturday afternoon, the tours ending in the coffee shop where free coffee will be served. In addition, a complimentary ticket will be given to each member of the tour which will entitle the bearer to one free game of those games that are chargeable. An all-campus "hop" will be held in the social room following the Glenville-Wesleyan basketball game. Game time has been moved from 9 to 7 o'clock."

The program board, headed by John Young, is responsible for all scheduled activities taking place in the Center. Concerning general rules, Stansbury said, "We are going to try to have a minimum of regulations. He added that while definite hours have not been decided upon, the Center will be open longer than the SCOW is at the present time. It has tentatively been decided that the hours from Monday-Thursday will remain the same but that weekend hours (Friday and Saturday) will be extended to 11:30 p.m. There will be no evening closing as it now exists in the SCOW from 5 to 7.

The college "I.D." card will be the "key to the Center," being required to obtain most of the services. The motive here is to restrict the use of the facilities to the campus population.

Benedum Campus Community Center

1963

The 184,000 gallon swimming pool has been filled once, drained, leaks repaired, and is in the process of being filled now. Swimming classes will be held next semester, and there will be no charge for swimming when the pool is open to the students.

The bowling lanes will cost 25 cents per game and shoes will rent for 10 cents a pair. Pocket billiards will cost one cent per minute as long as a table is in use, no matter how many are using the table. Four tables have been ordered. Punch cards and an automatic timer will be used to determine the amount of time that table is in use and the fee that will be required. No fees will be charged for the use of the two ping pong tables, or for the cards, chess, and checkers equipment that will be available.

Definite hours for the bookstore have not been decided upon as yet. The variety of the stock will be expanded somewhat, and many items will be on display that have to be kept in storage because of lack of space in the present store.

Paperbacks will be available, but there will be no attempt to duplicate the stocks of the downtown stores. The books will mainly be those needed for supplementary class reading. The book distribution system at the time of registration will be improved, due to the increased space available and self-service arrangements.

The coffee shop, operated by Saga will be open all the hours the Center itself is open.

Wesleyan's FM radio station will go on the air as soon as authorization and license is received from the FCC, and equipment arrives and is installed.

Looking for someone? Then check the SCOW. That's the *Student Center of Wesleyan* where you'll find the snack bar, dance hall or "Blue Room," ping pong room, book store, committee rooms, offices, and, most important of all, the Publications Office where you can always find the MUMURMONTIS staff hard at work. Check that new parking lot outside, too!



Funds from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation (\$400,000 in total) made this building a reality. Although there had been a student center prior to this building, it was located in a pre-fabricated building left over from the barracks used on campus during World War II. It had limited space and facilities.

Known as the SCOW (Student Center of Wesleyan), the 1957 Murmurmontis tells us that it included "a snack bar, dance hall (Blue Room), ping pong room, book store, committee rooms, offices, and most important of all, the Publications Office where you can always find the MURMURMONTIS staff hard at work."



The new building included a swimming pool and a bowling alley along with a game room, book store, snack bar, and social hall.

The pool is still there, and the social hall – although it looks a bit different now.

The snack bar has undergone several renovations, and is now known as the Cat's Claw.

The bookstore has also undergone several variations through the years and is now known as The Bobcat Den.

Sadly, the bowling alley has not survived. It was located behind where the Grab-And-Go cooler is in the present-day Sunny Bucks.

The radio station was located on the second floor, and now is on the first floor of this building.

The Social Hall looks much the same

Through the years it has been used for meetings, dinners, parties, receptions, lectures, dances, and countless other things that bring people together.

As the name suggests, it is a Community Center.



Holloway Hall

1963

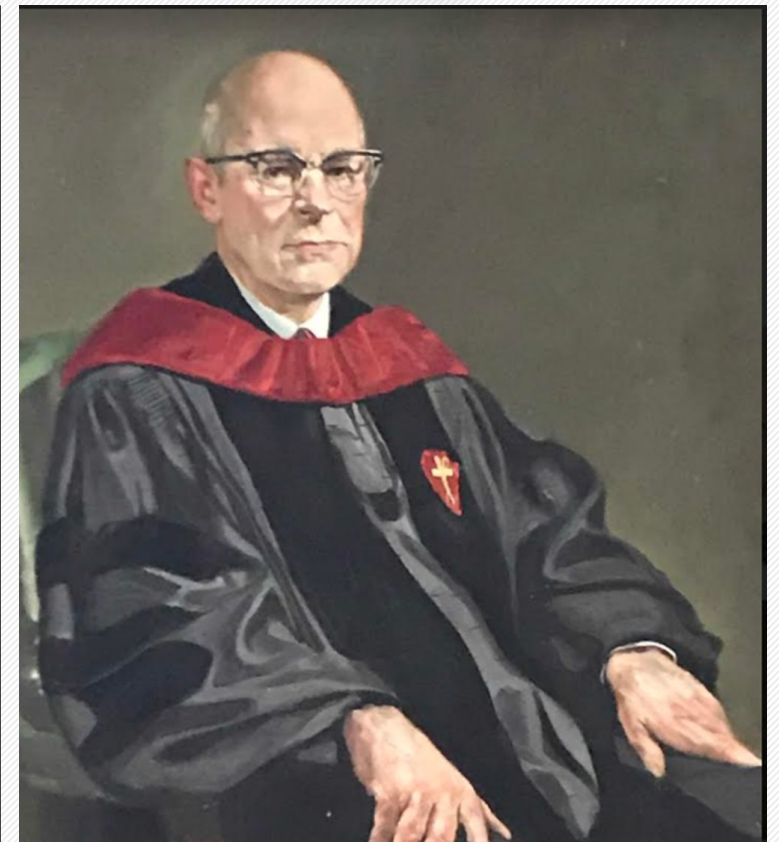


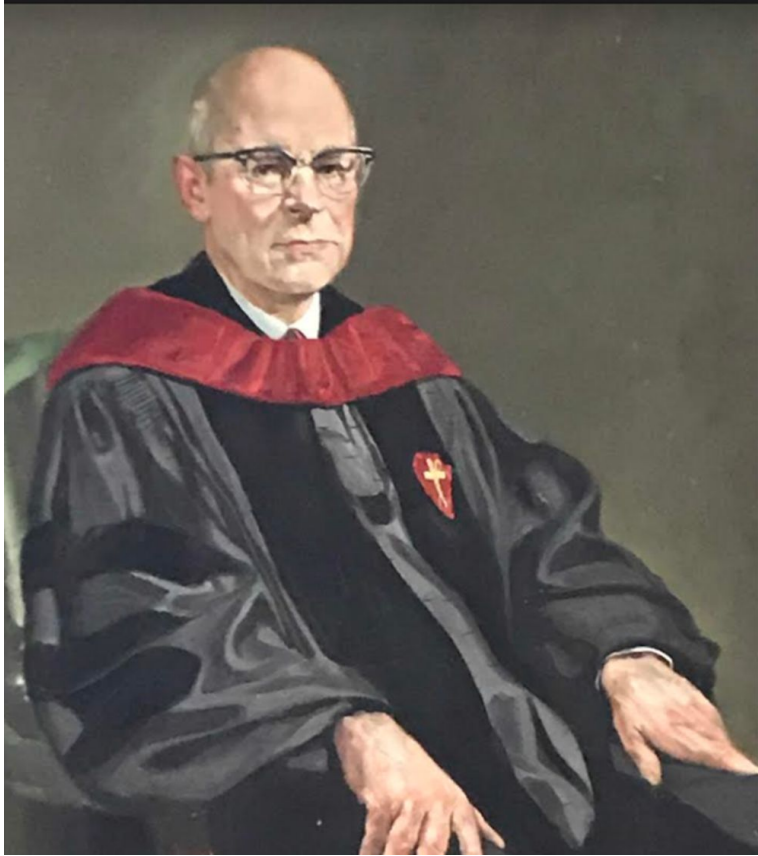
Ever a pressing need for living space, Holloway Hall was next to be built.

The same year as the Benedum Campus Community Center opened, this dormitory was added.

In this slide, you can see the drawing submitted by Larson and Larson Architects of Winston-Salem, NC.

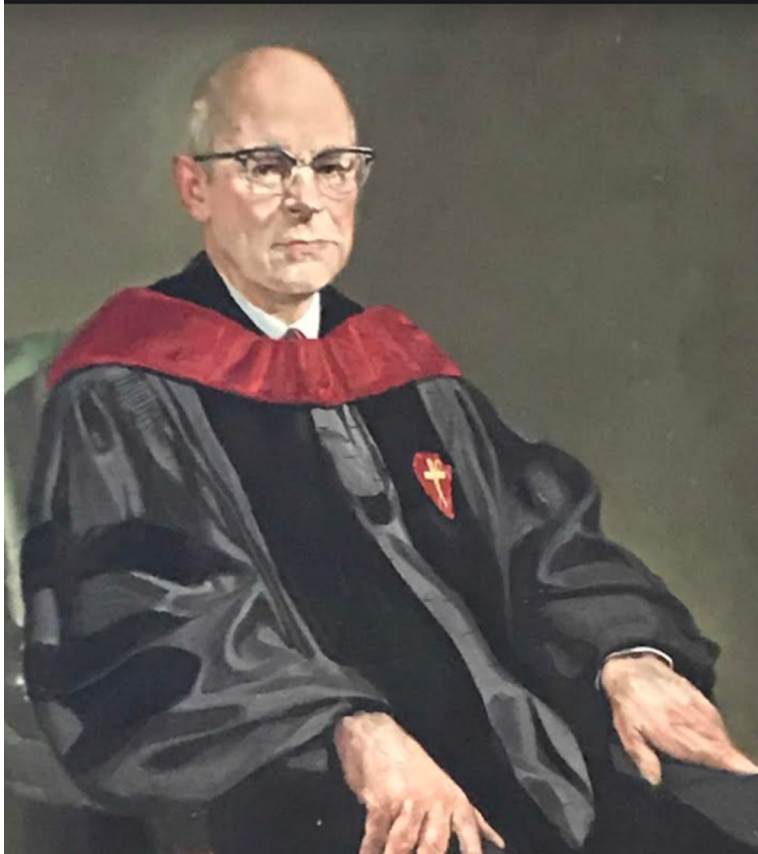
This building was named to honor Bishop Holloway, and not for a major donor.





The New York Times Archives includes his obituary.

- Bishop Fred G. Holloway, the first bishop of the West Virginia Area of the Methodist Church, died here Wednesday after a long illness. He was 90 years old.
- The Methodist churches in West Virginia, most of which were in rural areas, were under the jurisdiction of Pittsburgh until 1960 when the national church voted to make West Virginia a separate area. There were 200,000 Methodists in the state when Mr. Holloway was named bishop.
- In February 1965, Mr. Holloway announced that the 1,600 white Methodist churches and the 25 Negro Methodist churches in West Virginia would be united under a common administration. West Virginia was one of the first states to make the plans public to combine the two groups.
- Mr. Holloway also served as president of Western Maryland College from 1935 to 1947 and president of Drew University from 1947 to 1960.



A Little Background:

Methodist Churches are organized into Conferences, and there are conferences all over the world, arranged in geographical areas. Each has a Bishop.

The churches in the area of West Virginia were part of the Baltimore Conference for a long time. Then part of the Western Pennsylvania Conference. In 1960, West Virginia became its own conference! Bishop Fred Garrigus Holloway was the first Bishop of the West Virginia Annual Conference.

This automatically placed him on the Board of Trustees of West Virginia Wesleyan.

Even today, the Bishop of the West Virginia Annual Conference serves on our board, and often the Bishop of the Western Pennsylvania Conference as well.

The Board of Trustees, from the earliest days, even before our founding, has had strong Methodist Conference ties. For many years, all members of the board were also members of the conference – and included both clergy and lay (not preachers) members.

Today there is still a good bit of representation of both of these groups, but many board members are not related to the West Virginia Annual Conference, or even to the United Methodist Church.

The West Virginia Annual Conference does, however, elect the Trustees during their meeting here on campus every June.

Paul G. Benedum Hall

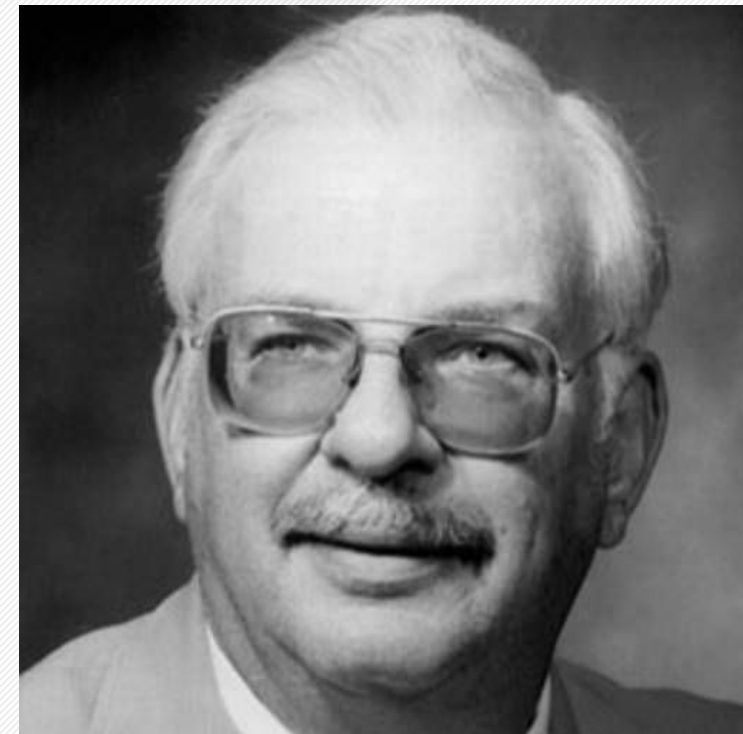
1963



As was the case with many buildings on campus, it was simply called New Hall for several years...in this case for 10 years!

It was renamed and dedicated as Paul G. Benedum Hall on October 12, 1973 as part of the Founders Day Celebration.

The Benedum family is equally famous for Oil and Gas Exploration and Philanthropy.



Paul Gregory Bededum, Jr.



Michael Late Benedum

**CLAUDE
WORTHINGTON
BENEDUM
FOUNDATION**

The family history of philanthropy begins with Michael Late Benedum, who was known as the Great Wildcatter. He was born in Bridgeport, WV, and the family was very active in the Bridgeport Methodist Church.

Known as “The Great Wildcatter” he is considered a Giant in the Oil and Gas industry. He received an Honorary Doctor of Philanthropy from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1957.

His only son, Claude Worthington Benedum, died at age 20 during the Spanish Flu Epidemic, and the family set up the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation to honor his memory. Their mission is to “To encourage human development in West Virginia and Southwestern Pennsylvania through strategically placed charitable resources.” They fund Education, Economic Development, Health and Human Services, and Community Development projects.

Michael’s brother, Charlie, died in 1904, “leaving his widow and an infant son, Paul Gregory Benedum. Paul was to have a long and fruitful association with his Uncle Mike.” (Dietrich, W. S. (2011). *Eminent Pittsburghers: Profiles of the cities founding industrialists*. Lanham: Taylor Trade Pub., p.140)

Paul Gregory Benedum, Sr. studied Metallurgical Engineering and Geology at Ohio State University, graduating in 1927. He had a long and distinguished career in the oil and gas field. He served on the West Virginia Wesleyan College Board of Trustees from 1951-1973, and as Trustee Emeritus from 1973 until his death in 1977.

- He received an Honorary Doctorate of Science in 1951.
- His wife, Willeen Ludwig Benedum, also received an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service in 1971.
- Son, Paul G. Benedum, Jr. received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws in 2008 and was the speaker for commencement that year.

Christopher
Hall of
Science
1967



By the 1960s, the Haymond Hall of Science facilities were becoming outdated and not adequate for laboratory space. There was a great need and desire for a new science facility.

Christopher Hall of Science

1967

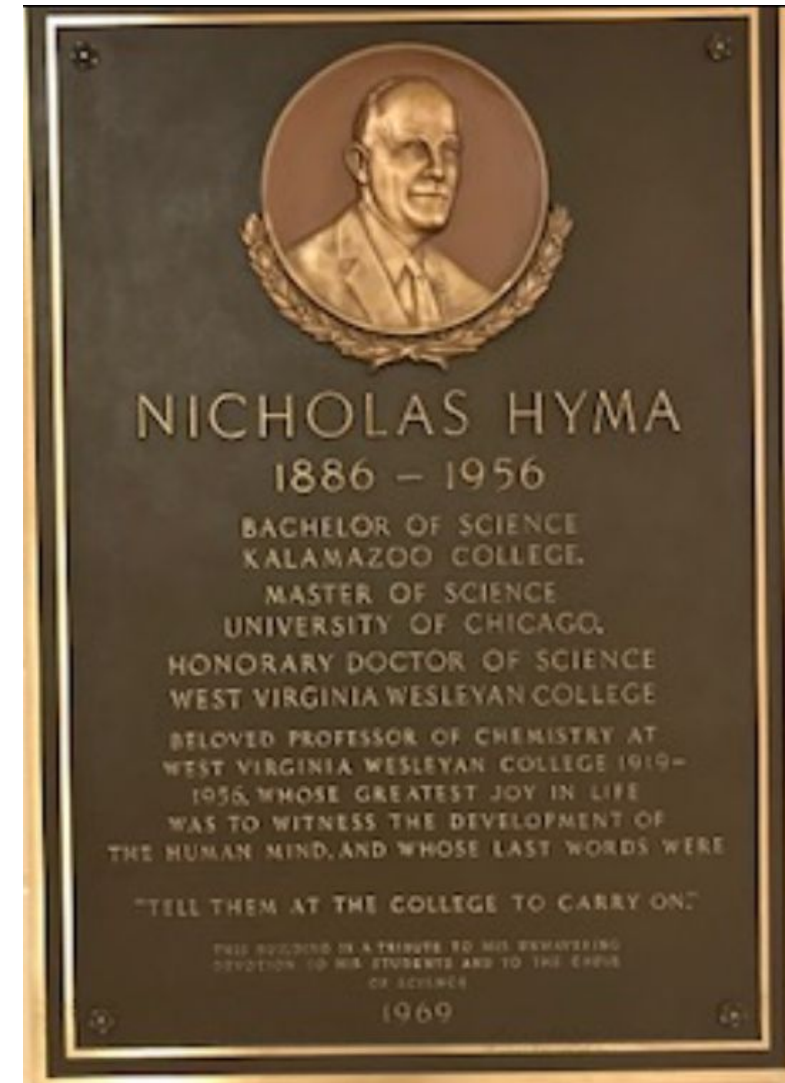
President Stanley Martin was tireless in his efforts at fundraising for all of the new buildings that were being constructed, and often spoke at churches throughout the West Virginia Annual Conference.

Mabel Neville Christopher (Class of 1918) and her husband, Frank Christopher, were active members of Wesley Methodist Church in Morgantown. Frank, a mine owner in the Scotts Run area, had made a lot of money just before and during World War II as the need for coal soared.

Their son, H. Ward Christopher was an up-and-coming young businessman in his own right. He was very involved in the development of the Lakeview area. In 1962, he was killed in an automobile accident. Moved by Stanley Martin's campaign to fund new buildings, as well as their desire to honor their son's life, Mr. and Mrs. Christopher gave a substantial gift toward the new science building in his memory.

The Auditorium in that building is named for Nicholas Hyma, a true WVWC Giant. He taught Chemistry here from 1919 until his death on November 13, 1956.

He not only taught Chemistry, but inspired students, worked with them on research projects, and was nationally renowned for the preparation of an astounding number of students who went on to graduate school, to teach in major universities, and to be leaders in the chemical industry.



The George Rossbach Herbarium and the WWVC Planetarium are also located in Christopher Hall of Science.



Workers hard at work building the building – so that the building could build the students.



The Old Gym

This photograph helps you to see the location of the Old Gym in relation to Christopher Hall of Science. To the right is Wesley Chapel, which was also under construction at the same time.

Wesley Chapel 1967



Wesley Chapel

1967

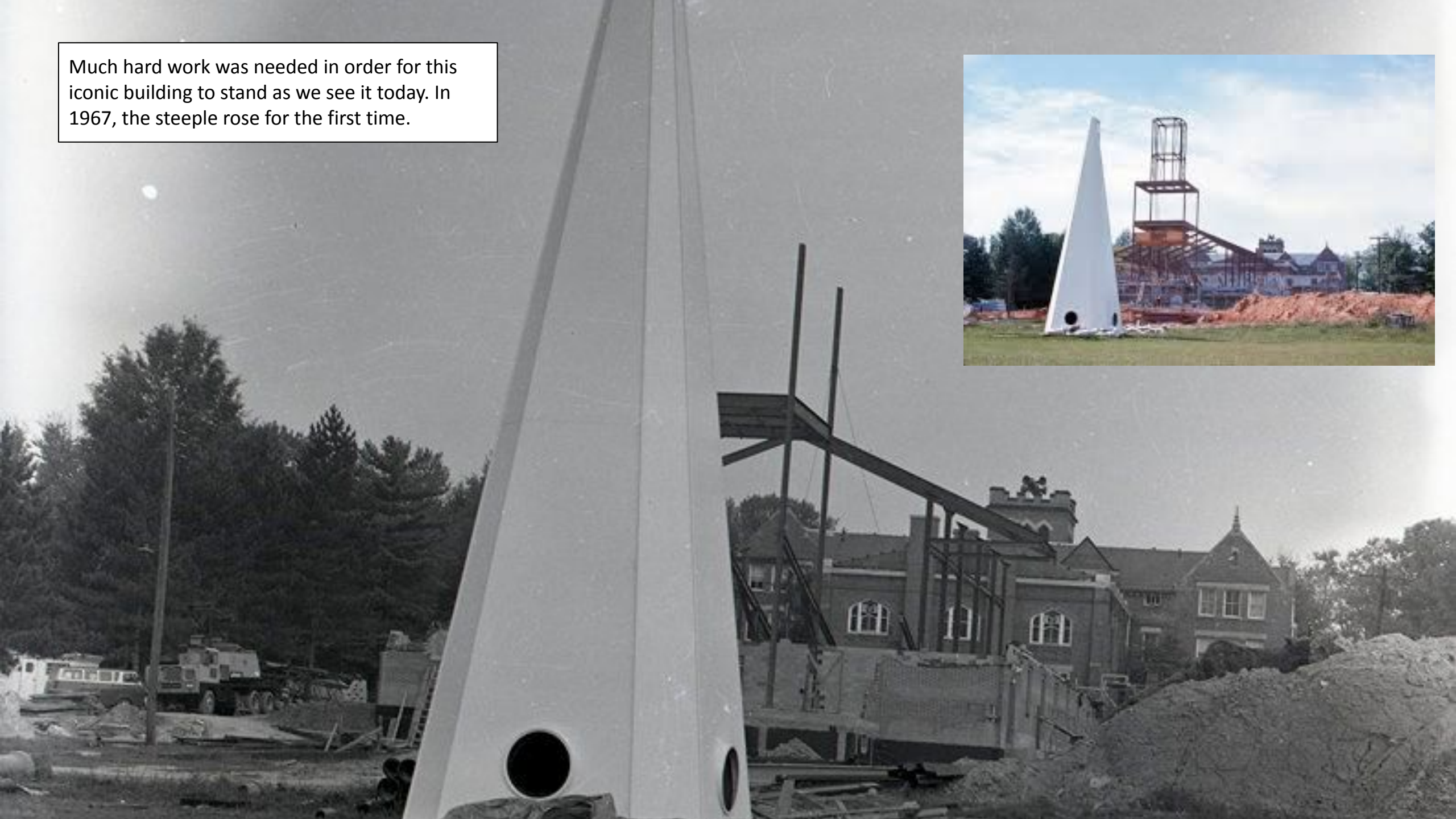
Those who are at Wesleyan today can scarcely imagine a time when Wesley Chapel was not there.
The steeple towering high above the town.
The chimes marking the hours.
John Wesley himself standing at the top of the stairs and looking out over campus.

President Stanley Martin was inspired by Marsh Chapel during his time as chaplain at Boston University. There are many influences that can be traced straight to our own Wesley Chapel. Check out *The Charm of the Chapel*, by Daniel Marsh to see some of those inspirations.

New Wesley Chapel Consecrated was the Banner Headline for the Pharos on Tuesday, November 7, 1967. The article about the Consecration Service on Sunday, October 29, 1967 mentions the dignitaries who came to celebrate. This included multiple bishops, former presidents of the college, and many other dignitaries. It was a big deal!!!!

That same article mentions that it was during Roy McCuskey's presidency that the dream of a chapel had first begun. Roy McCuskey was present to see this vision become a reality.

Much hard work was needed in order for this iconic building to stand as we see it today. In 1967, the steeple rose for the first time.



PRAYER

Bishop Fred G. Holloway

Almighty God, on whom we build our hopes for this life and that which is to come: Visit, we beseech thee, with thy loving kindness this place whereon we lay the foundation of a house to the praise and honor of thy holy name. Accept the act by which we lay this cornerstone. Bless those whose offerings enable us to build this house of worship. Graciously guard and direct those who labor in erecting it, shielding them from accident and peril. May the walls of this building rise in security and in beauty; and may the hearts of these thy people be fitly joined together into a living temple, builded upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone. Amen.





POPE GIVES WESLEY CHAPEL CANDLESTICKS

A gift of two candlesticks from Pope Paul VI for West Virginia Wesleyan's new Wesley Chapel will be presented Tuesday, Feb. 13, at the college's weekly chapel services which will feature an address by Rabbi Marc M. Tanenbaum, one of the nation's leading rabbis.

Presentation of the candlesticks on behalf of the Pope will be made by Bishop Joseph H. Hodges of the Wheeling Diocese. He initiated the effort to secure the gift for the Methodist college.

Rabbi Tanenbaum has been honored by Catholic institutions for his work with the American hierarchy in the advancement of Catholic-Jewish understanding. He has worked closely with Cardinal Bea's Vatican Secretariat and is active in a similar program of cooperation with the World and National Councils of Churches' Committees on the Church and the Jewish People.

Pharos

February 13, 1968

Martin Religious Center

1967

Martin Religious Center also rose from the mud.

Behind the construction, you can see Atkinson Auditorium in this photograph.

On October 20, 1967 there was a service to lay the cornerstone for this important building.
There were many Giants there that day.

The full program can be found at the link in the description. Names on that program read like a Who's Who of Giants of West Virginia Wesleyan College:

- Chaplain Sidney T. Davis (Class of 1936; Dean of the Chapel and Professor of Religion and Religious Education 1947-1976)
- Dr. Roy McCuskey (Seminary 1905; College 1908; President of the College 1931-1942)
- John Taylor (Assistant Professor of Music 1965-1970 --- took the WVWC Choir to sing at the Uniting Conference in Dallas in April of 1968)
- President Stanley Martin (President of the College 1957-1972)
- Bishop Fred G. Holloway (Bishop of the West Virginia Annual Conference 1960-1969)
- Dr. Ralph Brown (Class of 1915; Taught here from 1922-1961: Bible, Biblical Literature, Greek, Philosophy).....his students would have included Sidney T. Davis.



West Meditation Chapel

1967

- A Three-Ton Slab of Jordanian Marble was sent from King Hussein of Jordan to serve as the altar in the West Meditation Chapel.
- The West Meditation Chapel, by the way, is not so named because of the side of the building where it is located. It is because of the generosity of Calvin A. West and his widow, Mary Lowe West of Florida. They were devout Methodists, and felt it was important to support young people by providing scholarship support. (Miller, 38) Her gift was not, as it turned out, enough to fund the entire chapel, but the beautiful Meditation Chapel bears their name.
- The West Virginia Wesleyan College Bulletin of October 1967 includes a story called *Thirty Year Dream Fulfilled in College's Wesley Chapel*. This article is written by Dr. Sidney T. Davis, Dean of the Chapel. It begins:
- “Dr. Roy McCuskey remembers the conversation in which the idea of a new chapel for the college was first proposed. Nearly thirty years ago, while he and Mrs. McCuskey were visiting Mrs. Calvin A. West in Florida, Mrs. West announced her intention to make a substantial gift to the college for the construction of a chapel in memory of her husband. She provided in her will for a bequest of \$100,000, which the college received following her death.”
- It goes on to say: “In a master plan of the future Wesleyan dreamed by many and finally designed by the architects in 1958, a large building containing a sanctuary, meditation chapel, classrooms and offices was projected, to be located on the highest point on the campus.”



Wolfgang Flor, Upshur County sculptor, carved the Apostles

Carvings of the Apostles

1967

Celebrations of a more local nature occurred as well.
Wolfgang Flor was commissioned to carve the twelve apostles.
He used native chestnut logs for these pieces.

Read about these wonderful pieces in [DreamersAndGiants: They've Seen It All... and Speak](#)

Born in Germany in 1928, Mr. Flor was well-known in this area for his beautiful sculptures. He died in December 2017.



Middleton Hall of Nursing

1971



In 1971, Middleton Hall was built to house the Nursing Department and it was moved from the Benson House on Meade Street to its permanent home.

Today this building houses the state-of-the-art Nursing Lab.

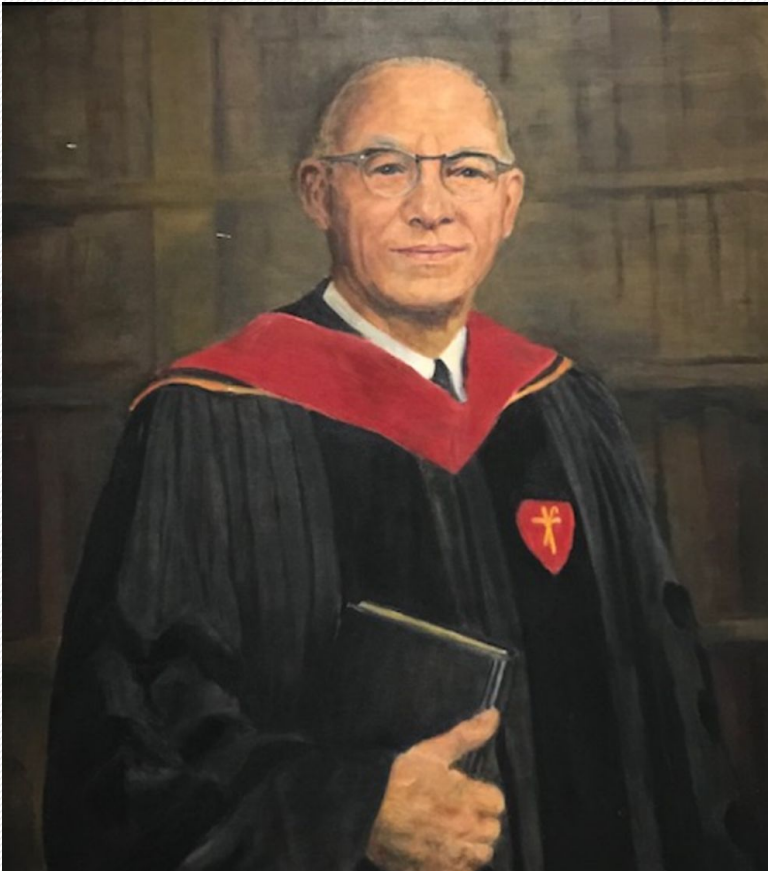
The service of educating quality healthcare professionals, many of whom stay and practice locally, is vital to the healthcare of the area. Again, something which would make the Founders proud.

This building was named for Bishop William Vernon Middleton, of the Western Pennsylvania Conference.



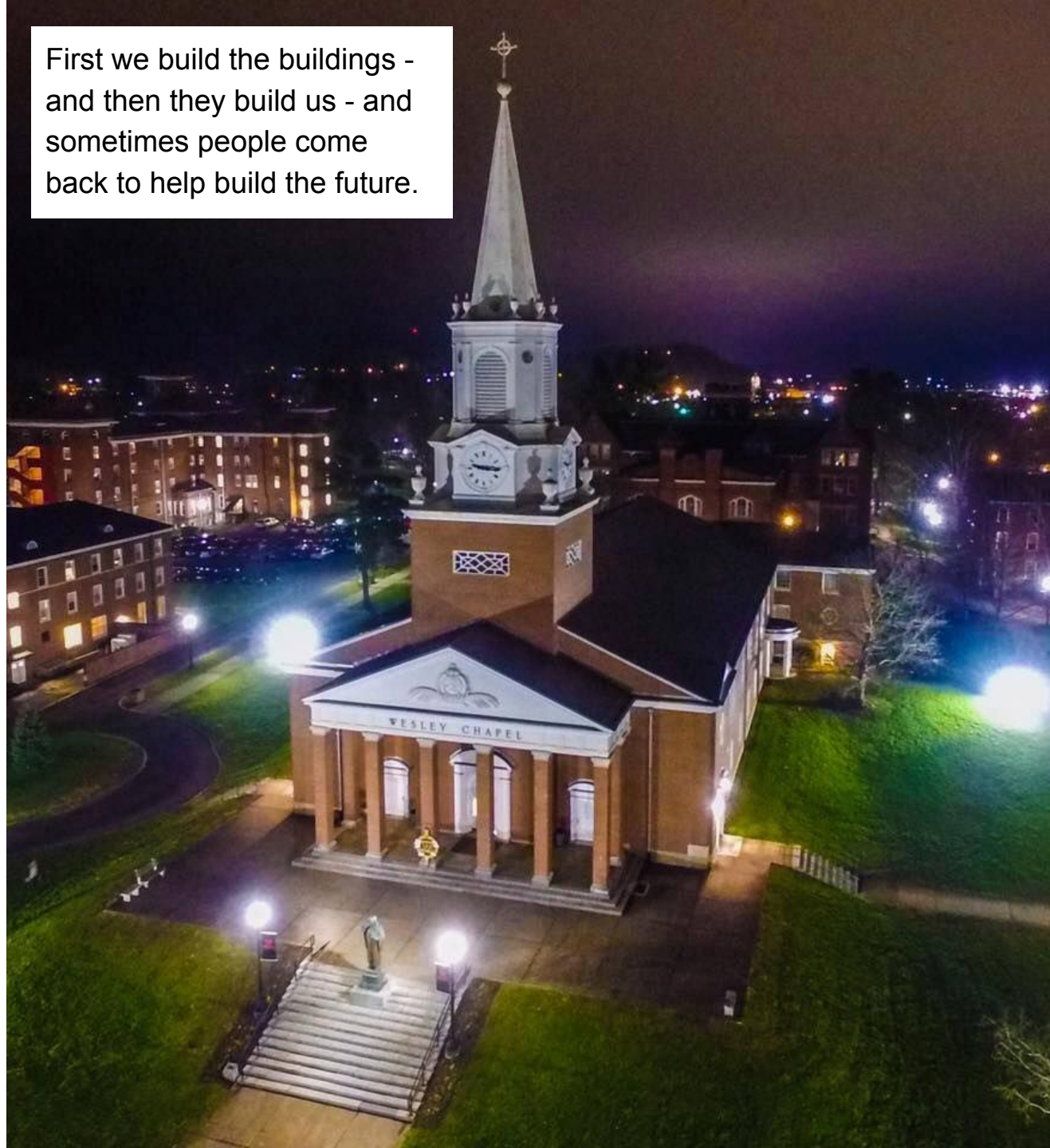
Middleton Hall of Nursing

1971



Bishop Middleton, of the Western Pennsylvania Conference from 1960 until his death in 1968., served on the West Virginia Wesleyan College Board of Trustees as an ex-officio member. He was on our campus many times, and spoke here as well. When he died in 1965, the people of the Western Pennsylvania Conference donated \$250,000 in his honor. These funds helped us to have Middleton Hall. Methodists have been supporting this school , individually, as churches, as districts, as conferences, and as a denomination, since our Founders in the late 1800s.

First we build the buildings -
and then they build us - and
sometimes people come
back to help build the future.



To Review

This period of growth saw the construction of many iconic buildings on the WVWC Campus

- 1963 Benedum Campus Community Center
- 1963 Holloway Hall
- 1964 Paul G. Benedum Hall
- 1967 Christopher Hall of Science
- 1967 Wesley Chapel/ Martin Religious Center
- 1972 Middleton Hall

In the next lesson we will look at the most recent additions to the campus.

WVWC History: Buildings (1974-2014)

Although things look very different now, and much has been added, the spirit of those early days can still be seen if you look closely. Even now.

Further Reading

Books

Haught, T.W. (1940) *West Virginia Wesleyan College: the first fifty years*. West Virginia Wesleyan College. Buckhannon, WV [electronic] *Internet Archive*. <https://archive.org/details/westvirginiawesl00haug>

Miller, B.T. (2014). *Our home among the hills: West Virginia Wesleyan College's first 125 years*. The Donning Company Publishers. [electronic] *Internet Archive*. https://archive.org/details/our-home-among-the-hills_202301.

Plummer, K.M. (1965) *A history of West Virginia Wesleyan College 1890-1965*. Printed by the Parthenon Press. [electronic] *Internet Archive*. <https://archive.org/details/historyofwestvir00plum>.

In addition to being available in print form, these three major histories of the college are all available full-text online at the Internet Archive. The Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library, as well as many other libraries, have print copies available.

Further Reading

Websites

Dreamersandgiants.com. {<https://dreamersandgiants.com/>}

The Founders dreamed us into existence in 1890. Without those dreams, we would not exist. The Giants have come here to teach, learn, and work ever since. This website, created by Librarian Emerita Paula McGrew, attempts to collect the stories and to celebrate all that has happened as a result.

Internet Archive {<https://archive.org/>}

By searching for West Virginia Wesleyan College, you will find college histories, catalogs, yearbooks, and more.

Pages in Time {<https://pagesintime.contentdm.oclc.org/>}

Pages in Time is a digital repository that makes accessible archival and special collections material from the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library, the West Virginia Wesleyan College archives, and the George B. Rossbach Herbarium. Included are student and alumni publications.

Further Reading

Specific to WVWC History: Buildings 1963-1972

- **Benedum Campus Community Center**
- [Article about Benedum Campus Center Opening \(January 15, 1963 Pharos\)](#)
-
- **Paul G. Benedum Hall**
- [Eminent Pittsburghers, by William S. Dietrich](#)
- [DreamersAndGiants Bio of Paul G. Benedum, Sr.](#)
- [DreamersAndGiants Bio of Paul G. Benedum, Jr.](#)
-
- **Christopher Hall of Science**
- [DreamersAndGiants Bio of Nicholas Hyma](#)
- [DreamersAndGiants: Decades of Dedication - Nicholas Hyma in His Element](#)
- [DreamersAndGiants Bio: George Bowyer Rossbach](#)
- [DreamersAndGiants: Passionate About Plants](#)

- **Wesley Chapel and Martin Religious Center**
- [Dreamers And Giants: Marking the Hours](#)
- [DreamersAndGiants: Images in Bronze](#)
- [The Charm of the Chapel, by Daniel Marsh](#)
- [Wesley Chapel is Consecrated](#) (Pharos 1967-11-07)
- [Cornerstone Laying Program for Martin Religious Center](#)
- [Thirty Year Dream Fulfilled in College's Wesley Chapel](#) (College Bulletin 1967-10)
- [DreamersAndGiants Bio of Wolfgang Flor](#)
- [DreamersAndGiants: They've Seen it All...And Speak!](#)

These readings can be found in the Description section on Internet Archive.

About the Author



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M.A. West Virginia University (2005)

Assistant Professor of Library Science 2001-2006

Associate Professor of Library Science 2006-2017

Professor of Library Science and Director of Library Services, Emerita 2017-
College Historian 2017-

Reference Librarian at West Virginia Wesleyan College 2001-2006

Interim Director of Library Services 2006-2007

Director of Library Services (WVWC) 2007-2017

Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate 2016-2017

College Historian 2017-